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Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council

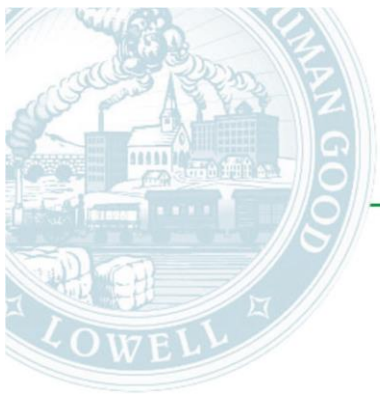
FROM: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

DATE: January 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Motion Response – State Funding for Public Safety Complex
C. Elliot – 12/22/21 - Req. City Council Vote To Request State Funding For Police Station/Public Safety Complex.

As asserted by the City Council through the adoption of this motion, the City's police headquarters is in deteriorating condition. The current state of the facility poses significant operational challenges to the Police Department, creates safety risks to staff and visitors and places limitations on the operations and services conducted by the Department. Given the high cost associated with completing the renovation and maintenance work necessary for the facility to meet modern demands, it is clear that state or federal support is required.

The attached correspondence has been transmitted to members of Lowell's state delegation requesting their attention to this matter. The City will remain alert to any future opportunities for state funding for improvement to public safety facilities.



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

January 6, 2021

Senator Edward J. Kennedy
State House Room 513
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Kennedy,

Like many mid-sized cities, the City of Lowell's capital assets have begun to show their age in recent years. This deterioration of city infrastructure presents an enormous operational and financial obstacle in the coming years, and the condition of the Lowell Police Department's headquarters is a vivid demonstration of this struggle.

The LPD currently faces several challenges due to the size and condition of its headquarters. In 2015, a feasibility and cost study was conducted to assess the state of the current headquarters. This study revealed that the current headquarters are too small to meet future staffing needs, and that building is in poor shape with multiple code issues. Additionally, the facility lacks the space and certain amenities necessary to run a 21st century policing operation. These issues create safety risks for LPD staff, limit the amount of training the department can provide, and make it significantly more difficult for LPD to conduct its operations.

In the 2018 capital assets bond bill, \$4 million was authorized to make public safety infrastructure improvements in the City of Lowell. The release of this funding would be a valuable step in enabling the City to address the maintenance and improvement needs of our public safety facilities. However, the 2015 study suggests a modern police station for Lowell would cost about \$55 million, a figure that has likely since increased. Given this projected cost, it is clear that state funding would be needed to make this a reality. Other Gateway Cities, such as Lawrence, have recently received significant commitments for state funding to improve their public safety infrastructure. Therefore, on behalf of the City of Lowell and the City Council, we are requesting your support in advocating for the disbursement of these funds, as well as additional funding for a new police station in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager